Statement

Premier responds to High Arctic Relocation Apology

August 18, 2010
IQALUIT, Nunavut

Premier Eva Aariak today released the following statement:

“Today is a historic day for Inuit of the High Arctic, northern Quebec, and indeed for all Canadians. The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, today apologized to those who were relocated more than sixty years ago to the Nunavut communities of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

Minister Duncan expressed deep regret on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Government of Canada, and all Canadians for the suffering caused by the mistakes and broken promises that led to this dark chapter in our history. He also paid tribute to the relocatees for their perseverance and courage, and for contributing to a strong presence in the High Arctic.

Today belongs to those who were affected by the High Arctic relocations. It is my great hope that these long-awaited words from the federal government will help to heal the pain still felt by so many. My thoughts are with them, their families, and those who are no longer with us today to hear these words of apology.

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